

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application of: Simionescu et al. )  
Serial Number: 10/722,142 ) Examiner: Amina S. Khan  
Filed: 11/24/2003 ) Group Art Unit: 1796  
Confirmation No.: 4675 ) Customer Number: 22827  
Title: Fixation Method for Bioprostheses ) Deposit Account: 04-1403

Commissioner for Patents  
Post Office Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The following is an Information Disclosure Statement for the captioned patent application, pursuant to 37 CFR Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98.

1.  Attached hereto is:
  - a.  A list of materials for consideration per Rule 98(a)(1): 1 page(s), citing 1 item(s)
  - b.  A legible copy of each patent, publication, or other item listed per Rule 98(1)(2), unless not required per Rule 98 and/or as indicated on the attached list(s):  
1 item(s)
  - c.  For each non-English language item listed, pursuant to Rule 98(a)(3), a concise explanation of the relevance thereof as it is presently understood by the individual designated in Rule 56(c) most knowledgeable about the content of such items: \_\_\_\_\_

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Such explanation is provided in the Search Report from a corresponding application enclosed herewith along with any enclosed translation into English.

2.  This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed [CHECK ONE]:
  - a.  WITHIN THREE MONTHS of the application filing date, national stage date of entry, or along with or after a request for continued examination, OR BEFORE the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, which ever event occurs last, WHEREFORE per Rule 97(b) NO filing fee or Rule 97(e) certificate is required.
  - b.  AFTER the time periods of section 2.a above, but BEFORE a Final Action, Notice of Allowance OR an action that otherwise closes prosecution, WHEREFORE PER Rule 97(c) submitted herewith is [CHECK ONE]:

- i.  Certification per Rule 97(e); OR  
ii.  Filing Fee per Rule 17(p) ..... \$180.00
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3.  Rule 97(e) Certification; per Rule 97(e), the undersigned certifying party make the following certification statement [CHECK ONE]:  
a.  That each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement; OR  
b.  That no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in Rule 56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

CERTIFYING PARTY (if different from bottom signature; omission here indicates that certification is being made by signer per signature below).

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_  
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4.  DEPOSIT ACCOUNT AUTHORIZATION: The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee specifically authorized hereafter, or any fees in addition to the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith or concerning any paper filed hereafter, and which may be required under Rules 16-18 (deficiency only) now or hereafter relative to this application and the resulting official document under Rule 20, or credit any overpayment, to our Account No. shown in the heading hereof for which purpose a duplicate copy of this sheet is attached. This statement does not authorize charge of the issue fee in this case.
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Date: May 21, 2009